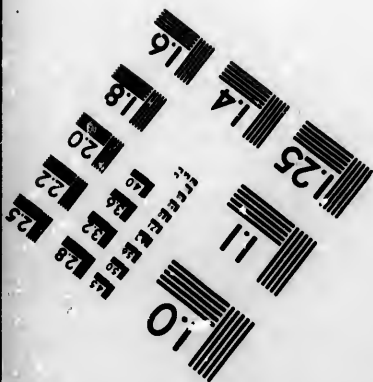
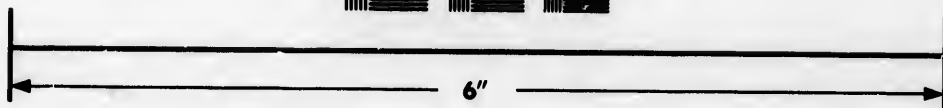
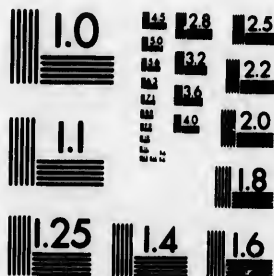


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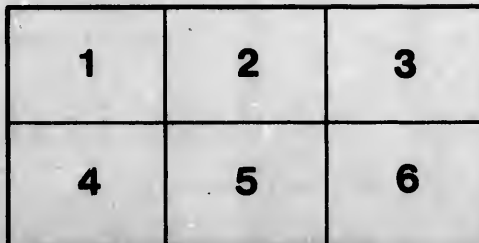
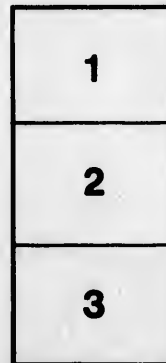
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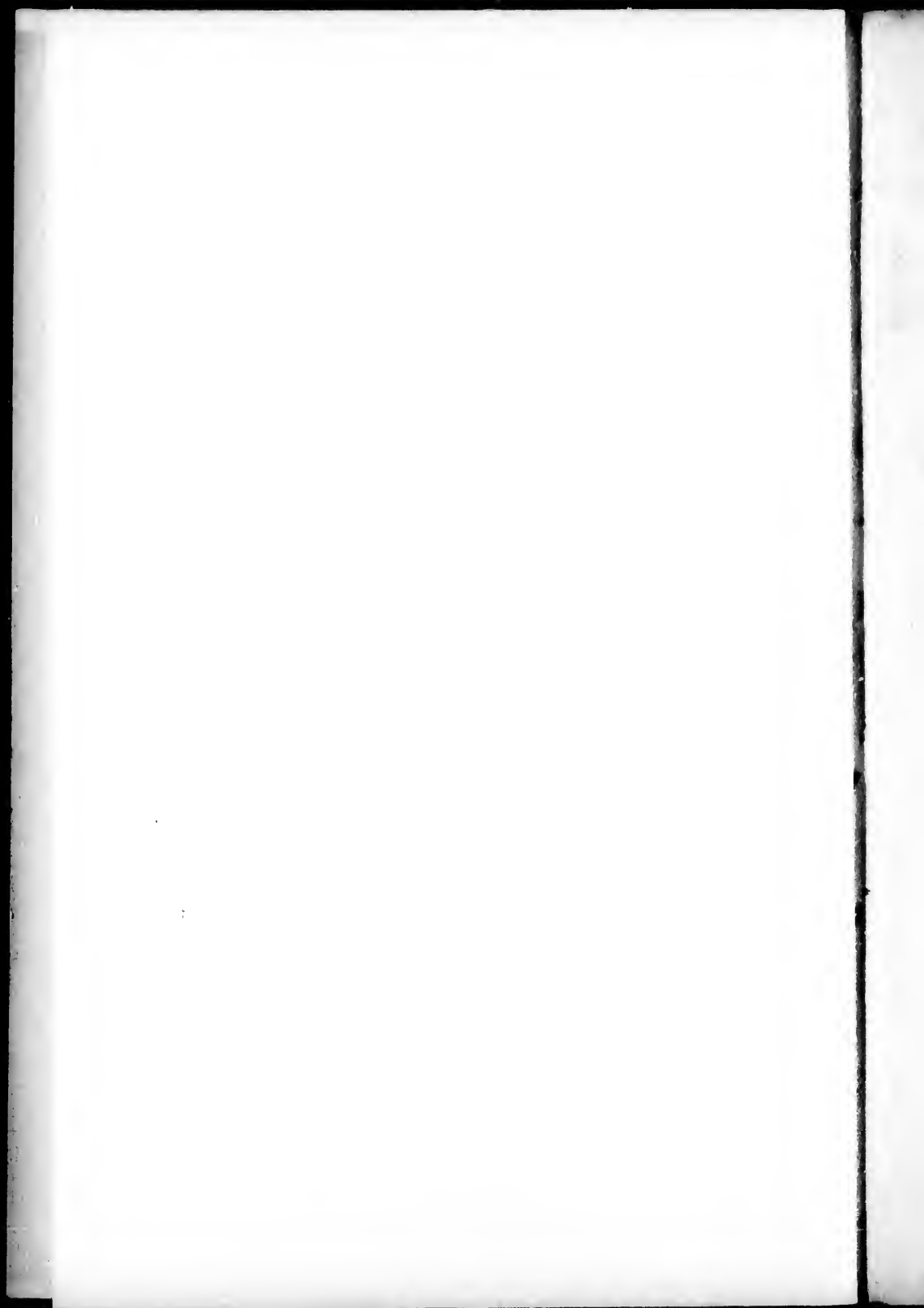
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AN

APOLOGY

FOR

GREAT BRITAIN,

IN

ALLUSION

TO

A PAMPHLET,

INTITULED, "CONSIDERATIONS, &c. PAR UN  
CANADIEN, M. P. P."

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QUEBEC:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY J. NEILSON,  
No. 8, MOUNTAIN-STREET.

1809.



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# AN APOLOGY

FOR

## GREAT BRITAIN.

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**A** PAMPHLET intituled "*Considérations sur les effets qu'ont produit en Canada la conservation des établissemens du Pays, les mœurs, l'éducation, &c. de ses Habitants ; et les conséquences qu'entraîneroient leur décadences par rapport aux intérêts de la Grande Bretagne,*" has lately appeared, and merits immediate notice ; not so much for its extensive historical selections, as for uncovering a variety of illusory opinions and apprehensions, which it is known are attempted to be diffused throughout the country.\*

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\* Les questions qu'on ramène à tout moment sur les rangs depuis quelques années, sont assez sérieuses pour mériter d'être traitées avec un peu moins de légèreté, qu'elles ne le sont ordinairement par quelques uns de nos écrivains à la semaine. Ceux-ci ne sont guères que des échos qui répètent mal ce qu'ils ont entendu dire ailleurs. *Plusieurs des sujets qu'on y discute tiennent essentiellement à l'ordre public, au bien être de ce pays, à notre existence même comme colonie Britannique.* Celui que j'entreprends de discuter moi-même est sans contre dit un des plus importants. C'est ce qui m'a engagé à mettre mes idées au jour.—Quelques individus crient sans cesse contre l'éducation, les mœurs, les usages, les loix, la langue des Canadiens ; on demande avec étonnement quel peut-être leur but ?—Page 1.

Ce fut parmi ces hommes à qui on donne sans cesse le nom de Descendants de François, de François même, comme un titre odieux, et un épithète de reproche, qu'on trouve le plus de zèle à soutenir et étayer la cause de la patrie en danger. Ce fut permis ces membres du Clergé Catholique qu'on outrage aujourd'hui impunément et si grossièrement dans un des papiers périodiques imprimés en cette Province.—Page 14-15.

Peut-on croire en effet que l'on doive considérer comme sans reproche ceux qui vont semant sans cesse leurs doctrines dévolantes et désorganisatrices dans cette colonie, qui s'arment d'un fanatisme aveugle pour crier envers tous et contre tous, qui prêchent avec emphase que la religion catholique ici n'est que tolérée, et qui s'épuisent en distinctions ridicules pour soutenir cette opinion odieuse autant qu'absurde ; qui crient sans cesse contre l'établis-



The full amount of this production, is, that it would be bad policy to cause any change in the present institutions, civil and religious, and in the language, manners and customs, of the Canadians, properly so called; that nevertheless, there is a considerable number of persons in this Province, who not only desire such change, but exert themselves to effect it, and with some prospect of success. This is its visible extent: but the manner of its execution gives great reason to believe that it is essentially addressed to the British Government.

The impression this performance and all others of the same tone, infallibly produce is delusive and injurious.—The unsuspecting Canadian, unaccustomed to the trick of

ment d'une religion sanctionnée par les loix fondamentales et la constitution de ce pays; qui, pour prix de la fidélité mise à l'épreuve des Canadiens dans des temps critiques, travaillent, ce semble, à faire croire et à insinuer que tous les efforts des citoyens qu'on appelle du nom d'Anglois dans cette colonie, sont dirigés ou doivent avoir pour but la destruction et l'anéantissement de tous leurs droits civils et religieux.—Page 26.

Mais est-ce travailler pour l'honneur du gouvernement Britannique de faire supposer à ses enfans ou à ses agens; ici ou ailleurs, un système Machiavélique indigne du gouvernement d'une nation quelconque, dont l'idée doit déshonorer l'auteur qui ne rougit pas de le mettre au jour comme étant de son crû?—A entendre parler quelques-uns de nos démagogues politiques, nos évêques n'ont ici ni autorité ni juridiction: leurs pouvoirs sont nuls: on pourroit presque les punir de les exercer. Ce langage a été quelquefois tenu par des hommes qui se croioient sans doute le sens commun. La religion catholique à laquelle nous devons la conservation de ce pays à la mère patrie, à laquelle nous devons uniquement ce que nous avons d'établissmens vraiment utiles, et même la conservation de ce pays à la Grande Bretagne, ne produit que du mal; son influence et celle de ses ministres, qui n'a été et ne peut être employée que pour le soutien du gouvernement lui-même, il faudroit l'anéantir à cause du danger prétendu qui en résulte pour son autorité.—Page 27.

Pour revenir à l'éducation, on parle beaucoup des dangers de la conservation de la langue Française. et d'une éducation donnée en cette langue par rapport à la tranquillité de ce pays et à sa soumission au gouvernement.—Page 28.

N'entend-on pas tous les jours vomir contre les Canadiens en général, contre leurs principes et leurs établissemens des calomnies atroces?—P. 29.

Ne seroit-il pas plus avantageux de travailler à tirer tout le parti dont on est capable d'un établissement tout fait, dont l'utilité est prouvée, que de songer à le renverser et à le détruire, pour en former un nouveau sur ses débris, composé de parties hétérogènes, et sur un plan opposé, dont le succès doit paroître au moins douteux à ceux qui le préconnoissent avec le plus d'ardeur?—Page 34-35.

Dans quel temps encore vient-on crier contre les prétendus défauts de notre établissement, et entonner l'hymne de la destruction, quand, au lieu de diviser et affaiblir nos forces, nous devrions travailler au contraire à les réunir.—Page 35.

composition, and to the licence taken to perfect and colour off a work, yields his entire belief to what is published, and remains in a tranquil subjection to the undiscussed opinions he may have formed.—There is indeed a degree of positive cruelty in the conduct of those who without a manifest cause attempt thus to play upon and abuse the sensibility of their countrymen.

Three or four transient paragraphs, in a periodical print, which in its nature admits of the extremes of variety in matters of opinion as well as fact, and expressed in a language, a perfect non-conductor, as it relates to the Canadian population, surely did not require so formidable an antidote. An appeal to all the tender recollections of a respectable people, profoundly ignorant of the cause; an invocation made to all the hobgoblins of antiquity, requiring them to rise forth and defend most valourously their ancient domain, against two or three paragraphs, long since forgotten by their authors, is equally indiscreet and ludicrous.

Courtesy leads us to suppose such indiscretions proceed solely from an ignorance, or misconception of the character of the British Government, constitution and people.

Justice is the basis of British power. Nourished, invigorated and enthroned in this celestial principle, its dominion has spread with the circles of the Globe. Scarcely a breeze can blow in any region of the air, without raising to heaven its ensigns. Under its sway, people of every colour, every faith, almost of every language, of widely contrasting habits, manners and customs, proudly acknowledge themselves, protected, ennobled and utterly disenthralled.—It is neither by the pike or proscription, by the illusions of a song, a ribbon, by flattery, frauds or deceit, by the midnight treacheries of disciplined informers, posted in every niche of society: it is not by stupifying the public mind, in compressing it within artificial limits and making it sicken and wither under perpetual impressions of fear: it is not by causing universal distrust, indifference and despondency and destroying all the political

affinities between man and man, that this ubiquity of dominion, stands erect and flourishes ; it is not by violently dislocating ancient customs and habits, making war against the utterance of a foreign people became our own by the destiny of things ; it is not by pilfering the emblems of their religion, or courting from the *vestibule* of their temples the followers of the religion of their fathers that the chaste pre-eminence of British power is caused or perpetuated.

Great-Britain has never imposed but one servitude on her subjects ; and that is a constant exercise of justice, used in a generic sense. It is indeed her policy to compel respect to the person, liberty, reputation and property of every individual ; whatever may be his faith, form, or tint. She has indeed, and decorated in penalties, pronounced that every man's hut shall be his castle ; that no one shall be deprived of his money, even for the best public uses, but with his own consent, and that by his peers only shall he be tried and condemned : but it has never been her policy, to make compulsory rules to regulate the tinklings of the voice, to enact what length of *queue* shall hang from the head ; or at what time her liege subjects shall perform their daily functions : much less has it been her policy or practice to pass the sacred confines of private conscience, no matter how grotesque or visionary the bias, provided the exterior observances, have been socially inoffensive.

The christian with all his secessions and varying opinions ; the Turk, the Jew, the profusion of the sects of the east, with their chosen pomp, or harlequin rites, move on to their altars, in the full blaze of day, with a firm step and unaverted eyes, tranquil and secure within the limits of British dominion.—Ask the many nations of Indostan whether their present rulers have ever by requisition attempted even to cleanse their temples, of their acknowledged pollution ; whether they have ever pronounced, penalties against such as prefer their bells, their party coloured streamers, and gay minarets, to the cross, the

dove and other holy symbols of our true faith ? Whether their infants have been torn from the arms of the mother, that they may be taught to prattle english, instead of their native tongue ; or that their pliancy might be made to receive with better assurance, a catechism totally unknown to their fathers ? Have the manners and customs however whimsical, irrational, and it must be added tragical, of that fairy land, in any one instance, been modified or interdicted ? Has the lovely female, who yielding to a pagan practice, there, is sometimes seen with the mould of death already on her lips, preparing the funeral pile, that her own may mix with the ashes of her husband, been required to desist and return to life and joy ?—And think ye, there are no Britons, who would perish to save such victims ; but that the principles of their power, and their exalted freedom, oblige them to reverence and respect, the rights, the customs and habits, the language, and all the peculiarities of the various people, with whom they are connected in political bonds ? Let rigid history reply.

And surely, could the British Government, ever deviate from its native principles, and force a change of character, for state purposes ; it would be in the hapless plains of Asia, where conquest has too generally exercised her utmost pride, petulance and cupidity : it would be among a people, emasculated by their climate, religion, and customs, and incapable of opposing any efficient resistance.

Great Britain is the same, on the Thames, the Ganges, and the St. Lawrence.—The great principle of her power, is an indivisible unit : equal justice to all : universal respect to local peculiarities and prejudices : and the Provinces of Canada bear full testimony to the undeviating application of that principle.

The result, of a war made just by the aggressions of Louis the XV ; and of campaigns, the incidents of which erected our flag into an emblem of victory, gave to Great Britain the possession of this province. Although of no

value or interest whatever, save the disarming an hostile frontier, the British Government and people, prized it as a fragment, of a then noble and generous nation ; and treated their new friends, with all that courtesy which so well becomes such rivals, at Peace.

The population of the Colony, at the cession in 1763, amounted to 83,000 persons ; a number so small, and in circumstances of such indigence and simplicity, that it was conceived it would easily mix, and incorporate with, the vast colonies in the neighbourhood ; and the English laws, civil as well as criminal, were ordered to be observed in the new acquisition. But no sooner had the colonists, emboldened by the frank and liberal conduct of the government, complained of the inconveniencies of a system of law, the sudden application of which, sensibly affected their family arrangements ; than the British Parliament, neither so proud or selfish as to persist in a municipal jurisdiction found irksome, retired from its own domain, and received the law from the conquered.

It was enacted by the celebrated Statute framed in the 14th year of the present reign commonly called the Quebec Bill ; that all causes that should thence after be instituted in any of the Courts of Justice within this Province, with respect to the rights and property of His Majesty's Canadian Subjects, should be determined agreeably to the ancient laws and customs of Canada. Thus the primitive colony was restored entirely to itself, and all its fractured parts nicely reunited ; and perhaps, as appears by daily indications, more firmly jointed than before. The cession of the country seemed a vision : and had it not been for the occasional appearance of the Royal Standard on Cape Diamond, there would scarcely have been any evidence of the political change.—But the inconveniences the colonists had complained of, did not leave the country ; they were merely removed from the new to the old subjects ; to such as the profession of arms or civil pursuits had brought into it : on entering Canada, they entered a la-

byrinth, from which they might sometimes purchase a retreat, by the loss of half their property.

Not only the laws, and ancient usages, of the colonists were restored to them, but a constitution, in virtue of which they might legislate for themselves, was held up to their expectation, when circumstances could justify the institution. The colonists chose the period, and the provincial Constitution, was enacted, and put into operation. But mark the manner, which always constitutes the value of a gift ! The Colony is divided into two Provinces ; so that the original Canadian population, might remain entire, uninvaded, and in the full possession of every avenue to a branch of the Provincial Legislature ! Thus, did the mother country, prove its own good faith, and the entire confidence it placed in the Canadian people : thus, did it unequivocally, constitute them the defenders of their ancient, and disposers of their future laws ; the judges of their own wants ; masters of their own revenue ; and the arbitrators of their own differences ; in fine, thus conferred all the benefits of a perfect Legislative establishment, without the cares, responsibility or perils of Empire ! It is thus, indeed, that Great Britain has taken every means in her power ; What ! to modify or change the antient laws, customs and language of the Canadian people ? No ! rather to perpetuate them all, however great, the evil, inconvenience, and thralldom they may inflict and impose on a growing country.

This donation of a Legislature, to the Province of Lower-Canada, has hitherto been, and may long continue to be, the main buttress which supports our ancient Law. As the defence of this, is made a point of honor by a large majority of our population, and as this majority is fully represented in our Provincial Parliament, it has become indecorous to point out a defect, and a Legislative felony to propose a change ! If nevertheless attempts are made, failure is uniform : and the country is left without a subsequent remedy.

It is not intended to enter into any view however su-

perfcial, of the present civil laws of the Province, but when the term majestic simplicity,\* is indiscriminately addressed to them, it is impossible not to recoil upon the expression; it is impossible to withhold saying, that the edifice, (as it is generally called) of our civil laws; built in truth with Roman materials, but by the gloomy and wayward architects of the dark ages, who instead of the square and plumb line, employed the bow and the beaver; curiously carved and tessellated by the *feodum militare* of gothic memory; augmented, dismantled and again re-adjusted in a succession of ages; and all over-fretted, with infinities, of intaglios and bas-reliefs, which have risen under the tiny chisels of time; is, most majestically, accommodated with ingeniously contrived trap doors, that play upon invisible springs; with dungeons where the aspiring nerve of industry is majestically, trammelled; and with numberless latent back stairs, and subterranean alleys, up and down, and round about which, rights and wrongs may occasionally indulge in the very fascinating and at the same time equally innocent game of hide and seek.†

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\* Les loix du Canada, dont la clarté est admirable, et dont les étrangers instruits établis en ce pays, ont souvent admiré la beauté, la sagesse, et la majestueuse simplicité, deviennent un fardeau insupportable à ces hommes inconstans et avides de nouveautés.—*Considérations Page 27.*

† It, is a curious, and will soon become a melancholy fact, that in this Province, purchasers, of all real property accrued to the sellers by succession; are by law, liable to be deprived of the objects purchased; by any relation whatever, to the line from whence the property devolved, within one year and a day, from the accomplishment of the sale: on paying to the purchaser all his disbursements.—So that a person who may have purchased a lot of ground for £100, and erected buildings thereon to the amount of £5000; at the end of his labours may find himself sued in law, by some one issuing out of the woods, to surrender the whole for the original price of the lot. The apology generally made for this law, that it is difficult to succeed in suits instituted under it, in consequence of rules for that purpose established; besides being proof of its absurdity; does not take away the risk, which the purchaser must run. The first question a purchaser of real property should make, is, whether the seller acquired it by succession? If so, it would be prudent not to make any great improvement for a year. It is true, this law, has not yet come into general use: nevertheless a few cases have appeared within a short time, and the effect of one, was to extort an additional sum of money from the purchaser to avoid the risk. This, I think may be called, a very snug, if not a very majestic sort of trap.—The right of *lots et ventes*, although in universal operation, will sometimes be a trap to a foreigner. But a few days ago a Mr. W.

Far be it from me to speak lightly of the basis of our laws. It is chiefly composed of principles, which the Almighty himself has written on the immutable front of nature: but there are superstructures, which can be entitled to our notice only, from the hoary beauties of their moss. None, but an antiquarian will now defend the whole system of our ancient landed tenure, our *retraits*, the frightful interdiction of evidence in many cases, by the ordinance de Moulin, and the proscribing effects of consanguinity; with some &c's.—The manner in which our ancient laws, have been beautifully analyzed and distributed, by such writers as Bourgeon and Pothier, has conferred on them, a dress of simplicity, which is unjustly ascribed to the substance.—But those distinguished men would have unravelled the Gordian knot.

LANGUAGE.—Our alarmist is also afraid of his language. The British people have never made war upon sounds: they are not more indifferent what language the good people of Canada, employ in their tender vigils, or in decanting on the virtues of our Sovereign; than the King of the island of O-Why-ee, is, what description of notes, distinguish the magpies of Italy. It is the peculiar characteristic of that people, to prefer substances, to their shadows, colour or *vibrations*. British subjects have never discountenanced, the right in each other, to articulate in any manner preferred: nor are there, to be found, any penalties, denounced against the misdemeanors, of the throat and tongue, in so far as relate to their mere action on the air. Almost every county in England, has a distinct dialect, and some of them two or three, and it is, with some difficulty the peasants of the North, understand those of the South, or the East, those of the West. It is doubtful whether His present Majesty or any of his Court, would

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now in this Town did not discover he had several *lots et ventes* to pay, to third persons, for the purchase of several lots of land; until the deeds of sale had been completed.



understand a Yorkshire yeoman, or a Shepherd of Wales ; it is very certain, they could not, the husky burly of the Boys of Connaught : yet I am perfectly convinced, there is not a Canadian, but would be pleasingly intelligible, not only to His Majesty, but to a very large portion, of his European subjects.

The French language is, rather courted than avoided in European Britain : several periodical publications, there, among others, *L'Ambigu*, by PELTIER, are not only permitted, but patronized by the first classes of the Kingdom. Not only, every little Miss, knows in French, the whole nomenclature of love ; *bon soir mon chère, au revoir*, &c ; but every perfumer will be found deeply versed in the toilet phraseology of the French ; and many a footman who can screw out a French *Vaudeville*.—Indeed this is carried to a ridiculous length :—but it is the whistling of an Æolian harp : the cords of the heart issue no such sounds.

It is difficult to discover more enmity to the french language, in the Province of Lower-Canada. It is not only, welcomed, in the pleadings of our Courts of Justice, and the Parliamentary Debates;† but the provincial statutes, and all royal proclamations and public notices, are positively required to be printed, in the french, as well as the English languages. The children of the English residents, babble the one as well as the other ; and with some demonstration of pride, from the double acquisition. It is well known, the first object, of an emigrant, to this country, is the attainment of the former, not in a degree, merely to enable him, the more readily to accomplish his pursuits, but to possess it with fluency and grace. Surely some unmerciful atrabilarious lava-spitting night-mare, must have been articulating English to our author, in dreams unfancied, but by himself. However, notwithstanding this alarum bell, and many smaller ones that have

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† Suppose a foreigner, to have dropped from a balloon, into our house of Assembly, during a sitting, how would he answer the question : what country are you in ? Oh ! poor French language how you are persecuted !

preceded it, the Canadians in the towns, and in some country places, where circumstances permit, are, much to their credit; not only endeavoring to acquire, but actually attaining, with rapidity too, a knowledge of the English language. †

RELIGION.†—It is to be regretted, that Religion should ever be approached by the unhallowed touch, of a daily print or a political pamphlet; the sacred subject belongs, exclusively, to Synods, Councils and Convocations. No difference of form, should ever produce a difference of feeling, on a subject, that is not terrestrial. It ought never to be forgotten, that the faith of the Protestant, and the faith of the Catholic, took their being, and derive their holiness, from the same divine, eternal cause; that they are sister angels, varying only, in the colour of their plumes.

If the British Constitution and people, at certain periods of their history, have retreated with dismay from the latter; it has been caused, by temporal abuses that made the British Islands, repeatedly blush with the best blood of their inhabitants; and more especially by abuses, that were victoriously turned against their freedom. But, these, now, are only historical recollections, that ought never to be adverted to: peace and charity, have at last become, and ought ever to be, among the first fixed pursuits of both persuasions.

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† It may be remarked; to show how little, even the most ferocious warfare extends its rage to language; that, at this moment, in France, cowed and unstrung as are her inclinations, by the Tyrant; the English language is a main object in a liberal education: English presses are established, and an English News-paper, called the Argus, periodically published in Paris.

† A entendre parler quelques-uns de nos démagogues politiques, nos évêques n'ont ici ni autorité ni juridiction: leurs pouvoirs sont nuls: on pourroit presque les punir de les exercer. Ce langage a été quelquefois tenu par des hommes qui se croioient sans doute le sens commun. La religion catholique à laquelle nous devons la conservation de ce pays à la mère patrie, à laquelle nous devons uniquement ce que nous avons d'établissements vraiment utiles, et même la conservation de ce pays à la Grande Bretagne, ne produit que du mal; son influence et celle de ses ministres, qui n'a été et ne peut être employée que pour le soutien du gouvernement lui-même, il faudroit l'anéantir à cause du danger prétendu qui en résulte pour son autorité.—(Considérations page 27.)

The Roman Catholic Church, is not merely tolerated, (a term which implies the enjoyment of a right, by gratuitous sufferance) but is secured by all the fundamental laws of this Province. The deed of capitulation; the Treaty of Peace in 1763; the Quebec Bill; the constitutional act, and above all the character of the British people, combine to ensure to the Canadian, the free exercise of his worship; and ought to preserve him from any alarm, about the safety of his conscience.

Great Britain, was not satisfied with giving, this quadruple guarantee of security, to the free exercise of the Catholic faith, in this Province. The tythes were made and continue recoverable by law, in any of the Courts of Justice; and by this voluntary enactment, the Catholic Clergy have been not only, assured of the enjoyment, of all the comforts, and a little of the pride of independence: but their power and spiritual influence, have been promoted and consolidated. Notwithstanding, the Canadian, is for the most part attached, to his religion and to the obligations, it imposes; he is also, extremely devoted, to the little silver Mexicans, and if the payment of the tythes, became optional, he would soon make, many very acute enquiries, into the expediency of attending to that duty. From doubt, he might pass to conviction, that he could hold a safer intercourse, direct, with his creator, than through the costly intervention of another. He would begin, by huckstering, with his pastor, for a diminution of the tythes; the pastor would yield a part, to secure the rest: frequent yielding, would be followed, by frequent encroachment; until the flock would despise, the Shepherd, for his inability to resist! Individual dependency, creates contempt. This is a law of nature; and deviations from it, are caused solely, by that degree of moral perfection, which is seldom found in common life. A dependent Clergy, would very shortly be no Clergy at all: the sacred objects of their office, would participate in their decline: and it is not impossible that the

Catholic faith, might very unhappily tend, towards a total extinction.

Hence, then, it is inferred that, Great Britain, who was in no wise bound, to secure, to the Catholic Clergy the payment of their tythes; has nevertheless, following the *unique* principle of her power, declared them, to be a legitimate claim: and thereby has constituted herself, not the suspicious, reluctant, keeper; but the liberal PATRON of the Catholic Church in this Province.\*

The British people, are the atoms of the British constitution. A chaste love of freedom and enlightened respect for the rights of others, distinguish them all. They, too, have viewed with reverence the Catholic establishments in this country: they have treated the Clergy, individually, with every token of good will. On the annual festival of the *Fête Dieu*, they (the British) issue forth, into the woods, to collect branches of chosen trees, to decorate their share of the streets, through which the Catholic procession is to move. They avoid intruding with their carriages and almost with their persons.— On that festival, last summer, the military band, was ordered not to play, as usual, lest it might interfere with the sacred services of the day: and thus a discipline, which is at all times rigorous, gave up a little of its luxury out of respect to the exterior observances of the Catholic Church.

Shame, shame on the unblushing moment, that could consign to print, reproaches, on this subject, against the Protestants of this country! Shame on him, who could gravely found, on a passing whisper, denunciations so solemn, so acrimonious, yet so totally without a cause.

Happily, our author, is not the public organ, of the Catholic Clergy. They will never recognize such a defender. They have long since, been penetrated with the spirit of justice, and the sentiments of magnanimity, which characterize the British as a nation. They have, spontane-

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\* It is well known that the Roman Catholic Clergy in Ireland cannot recover by law any tythes or recompence whatever.

ously, and even from their pulpits, declared, the profound confidence they feel in their Protestant friends; and in private life, have given unceasing proof of their sincerity. §

This is a simple statement of facts. They must convince, the most wary and suspicious, that it has not only been the policy, but the distinctly pronounced, and unequivocally proven, determination, of the British Government, and people, to sustain the Canadians, in the entire enjoyment, of the religion, laws and customs of their forefathers. A few idle paragraphs should not have been considered as indications of a contrary disposition. Our freedom, fills the press with opinions, as various as the emotions of the heart, or the integuments of the brain. And if in the wild range of individual speculation, some have occasionally awakened the sensibility of the Canadians, it is an additional proof, how ignorant they are, of the constitution, under which they live, and the immunities, it has conferred; and how little they have as yet perceived, that the liberty of the press, and that of speech, *decorously* exercised, are the aliment, which sustains and nourishes, the indistructable political virtues, of the British people. Ignorant indeed of them and their means, is he who insinuates, that they can persecute. None know so profoundly as they, that persecution promotes, the evil it would subdue.—There is in the chronology of England, no festival of St. Bartholomew, no revocation of the Edict of Nantz, no event evincing the spirit that gave rise to such incidents; if we except the lunacy and fanaticism of Queen Mary, who was disclaimed by her nation.

To divert the British people, from endeavouring to bring about, the dreaded change, or warn them of the consequences, some laboured historical allusions are made, and set forth, as political beacons. This is something

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§ Among a thousand instances, of attention and liberality, on the part of the Catholic Clergy towards the English, the conduct of Mr. CHASSOLEZ, Curé of Longueuil, towards two Officers of the 49th Regiment stationed at that place; will always be remembered with pleasure. During a considerable time, he had covers, every day on his table, for those Gentlemen; and gave them notice, regularly at the moment of dinner.

like erecting lighthouses on a sea, that is not and never will be navigated.

The condition of Nations or States, scarcely, ever admits of just comparisons. Their peculiarities vary with the lines of latitude, and their political circumstances change like the forms of vapour. The instances, brought in comparison, with this Province are dissimilar, in every point of relation; and may rather be adduced, as exhibiting the most marked contrast. Sicily, Belgium, and England, at the periods alluded to, had ripened into manhood. Every inch of soil, was not only located, but under culture; every valley, had its hamlet, every plain, its villages and embattled towns. The rights, the customs and privileges, of the people, were founded, on titles, beyond the reach of memory, and hardened into adamant by centuries of prescription: in fine they had acquired, the highest condition, of civil and political maturity, relatively to the various ages, in which they were subjugated. An attempt to operate a total change of character, habits, manners and language on them, was to assault every principle of resistance, in consolidated societies. It was sending a man in the prime of life, or in his dotage, to school, to learn a new alphabet, and to alter habits, become tendencies of nature.

But the Province of Lower-Canada, politically considered, is in the first stage of infancy. The eagle in its passage across, sees nothing, but one interminable forest, save, a blue net-work of rivers, and a narrow strip of cultivation, which borders the St. Lawrence. The occupied portion is to the unoccupied nearly, as 1 to 50, or in such other ratio, as makes the Province, socially, as a whole, in a condition perfectly rude and maleable; and capable of receiving any impressions, it might be desirable to imprint. It is a bust, on which the sculptor, has finished a single feature only, leaving all the others still to be formed.\*

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\* Shall the original design, be strictly followed, at our author requires,

This defect of comparison, from a disproportion of establishment, destroys all the historical examples. These could have been apposite, only, by its appearing that all Sicily was a waste, except the town of Syracuse: that Belgium was an entire forest, except Brussels: and that the county of Middlesex, was the only cultivated spot in England, at the time, their respective masters, attempted to change the laws, customs and habits of their new subjects. Had the conquerors, found little germs of cultivation only; instead of large communities, covering extensive, fully cultivated countries, history would never have had, to recite the multiform misfortunes imposed by the changes attempted. We should have been told, that Sicily, Belgium, and England, yielded to the law of their new masters, as tender saplings playfully bow to a sudden blast, with no other evidence of pain, than a sigh.

The Norman Isles are too insignificant to be admitted as an example of any kind. They are treated by great Britain as a Citizen of London would indulge a foreigner in letting him take snuff in his own way. But the instance of the Conquest of England by William I. although not more applicable, is more amusing. The Sovereign of a Dutchy, a petty state, whose relative consequence, to that of England, at the period of the Conquest; might be as 1 to 8, in an age of chivalry and enterprize, collects a large army of turbulent and ready made renegadoes, and in a moment when the forces of England had been wasted in a war with the Danes, invades and in one desperate conflict conquers that country. The event made England a principal, and the Dutchy of Normandy, a mere accessory in the empire of William. Yet this ferocious and absurd adventurer, endeavored to make all the Characteristics of the people of a large kingdom give way to those of

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and the remaining features, be made to harmonize with the first? Or leaving this, entire, and undeteriorated, shall a different model be copied, in the accomplishment of the rest? In plain terms, shall the 49 unoccupied parts of this Province, be filled up and completed, on the same plan, that the one fiftieth part is already established; or ought a more eligible system to be pursued?

a comparatively insignificant province. This was making the ship and the long boat change stations.

To make an application to our own case, it will be necessary to form a ratio of political consequence, between the Province of Lower-Canada and the rest of the empire. The population of the former has been estimated, upon good data, at 250,000 inhabitants: the population of the whole empire, including, the vast possessions in the east has been generally computed at 25 millions: and therefore in respect to population the former is to the latter, in round numbers, as 1 to 100. But if the superior skill, capital, and industry, particularly of the European portion be taken into the account the ratio of power, would probably be more correctly expressed as 1 to 500. Admitting, then, that a change of the characteristics, of the Canadian people had been desirable from reasons of state policy, there would have been nothing politically cruel, in having forced that unit to yield to, and incorporate with this number; nor can it, for an instant, be imagined by the most fervent calculator, that the attempt would have been followed by any terrific catastrophe!

If it had been, desirable to draw inferences, from correct resemblances, they should have been sought for in the vicissitudes of those states, which, when in an incipient, fugitive, or incompact condition, admitted of facilities to change, which ripened communities, could not endure. The history of the early stages of society in the eastern continents, abounds with such instances: then, nothing was fixed, or permanent, in the order of things: and the characteristics of the conquered soon merged into those of the conquerors. But for greater accuracy we will seek an illustration in our times and hemisphere. The state of New-York, was originally occupied by the Dutch, under the name of New Netherlands. They had, opened considerable settlements; formed extensive commercial relations; and the City of New Amsterdam, already consisted of many streets and lanes, when the province was subdued by the English in 1664. In a subsequent arrange-



ment, the capture was turned into a formal cession by the Dutch Government. The inhabitants were treated with mildness and protected in every particular : of which they gave incontestable proof by their distinguished loyalty to their new Sovereign and his family.\* Yet the colonists never attempted, or ever expressed a wish, to impose their laws and customs on him, or his subjects, although they (the colonists) had been permitted for a certain time to regulate their family concerns as they had been accustomed to do, before the cession. So far from its having been even imagined, that the Colony, become English, was to be completed on the plan, and covered with the characteristics of the first occupant, the very names of the province and its capital, were changed to New-York, a name peculiarly English. Indeed the resident colonists and the Dutch themselves, testified in the strongest manner, their desire and determination, that all the institutions and practices of the country, should bend and conform, to english law, and English example. The provincial House of Assembly, in the year 1691, passed a solemn resolution, annulling at one stroke a number of ordinances, because contrary to the spirit of the constitution of England. † It is remarkable, that a large portion of that Assembly were Dutch colonists, as appears by their names, most deservedly put on record.

Instead of coiling themselves up in their arms, and surveying with despondency, the change of Sovereign ; the new Dutch subjects, very sagaciously, and with unabated ardor, continued their various pursuits ; permitted the ætherial ties of friendship and love, as well as the grosser bonds of gold, to unite them firmly with their new compatriots ; nor did they ever decline a guinea, because not embossed with the Stadholder's bust. They discountenanced no useful invention, nor beneficial improvement, because of english origin ; their sinews were never seen to contract, on the escape of an english accent, from

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\* Smith's History of New-York, page 31.

† History of New-York, page 162.

the lips of their children. They indiscriminately with the English, filled all the offices of honor, profit, and peril, with equal credit to themselves, and advantage to their country. Not one instance of mutual reproach, or national invective, is to be found on record, or has ever been suggested by the uncertain tongue of tradition. The two people gradually assimilated; until the original distinctive marks totally disappeared, in one uniform British mould. At this day the prosperous and powerful State of New-York, although bearing every appearance of an English dependency, is composed in a great degree, of the descendants of those wise Dutchmen; and the families of Schuyler and Renssaler, for wealth and reputation, rank among the most conspicuous families of this Continent.

The fine province of Louisiana, the Eden of America, has undergone as many changes, as a ball of putty in the fingers of a boy. France, Spain, France again, and lastly the United States of America, alternately, have stamped not only their political, but moral characteristics, on that country: and in consequence of the mixture New Orleans, the Capital, has the appearance of a vast hotel, where foreigners of all descriptions may be found. A few years more, and this variety will take the uniform cast of the predominant party. The island of Jamaica was originally settled by Spaniards; and a considerable town called St. Jago de la Vega founded and flourished. England conquered the Island: and not a vestige or a recollection of the original occupants now remain, beyond the precincts of history. A catalogue of similar instances, might be very fruitlessly adduced.

The cause of such transitions is manifest. The pliancy of the bodies acted upon, and their want of continuity rendered them susceptible of impressions, from whatever came in contract. Not unlike those little ponds of water, that will take a curl from any breeze. No acts of violence no illusions, none of the Machievalism alluded to, were employed. Nature took her course; and the results, were involuntary. Such in some degree would have been the

case in this Province, had not a stern, active, and ungrateful resistance been made, to the admission of whatever savoured of the British Nation. From the hour of the cession, the Canadians have been concentrating themselves, and cloathing all their peculiarities, of what denomination soever, in coats of mail. They have endeavored to raise a sort of Chinese wall, around their sacred domain, as a defence against the infectious intrusion of their English neighbours. \*

A *Stranger* who should travel through the Province, without entering the towns, would be persuaded he was visiting the interior of France. The language, the manners, and every symbol, from the weathercock, down to the *sabots*, would unite to deceive him: our pamphleteer to the contrary notwithstanding. On entering a house french civility, french address, french vesture, would meet his eye. In one of the best french dialects, he would hear, of *savon françois*, *soulier françois*; and every thing else, that it might be desirable to distinguish, he would find elevated, by the adjective, *françois*. Should one of the tender shoots, of the family, attune her voice, he would probably hear the pretty pastoral, of, "*Sur les bords de la Seine*," or some other stanzas, that would convey him to the delectable vales of old France. On surveying the "*chambre de compagnie*," among many other saints he would see the portrait of Napoleon || In short he would never imagine, he was passing over the skirts of the British empire.

It is not intended to complain of the perseverance, the Canadians exhibit in their modes of life. We live under

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\* Mettant encore ces considérations à part, et sans parler de la justice qui l'exige impérieusement, n'est-il pas dans les règles d'une saine politique, au lieu de faire des efforts pour semer la division et l'inquiétude parmi les habitans de ce pays, de travailler au contraire de toutes ses forces à conserver et consolider en ce pays déjà isolé par la nature, une population homogène.—*Consid.* page 36.

|| It is a fact, the pretended portrait of that fiend, may be found in many country houses: sometimes alone; sometimes reviewing his consular guards. There is a fine one, in high preservation, at the upper post-house of Carouge. It cannot be supposed these portraits are procured as a mere historical memento.

that happy *Ægis*, where every man may act as he pleases, provided he does not injure the society of which he forms a part. Yet let them not assail in the rude manner of our author, those neighbours who wish also, to be their friends.

There are among this very national people, numbers, who would not adjust their cravats, or trim their hair, like an Englishman, for any consideration. There are, who would not tenant a house, under an english form or distribution, until fully prepared to encounter some evil spirit : there are even such as would not pronounce " Virgin Mary," in english, scarcely for the Governor's Fifteen-Guinea purse. This tenacity, of whatever tends to preserve the perfect integrity of their cast, does not proceed, merely from habit, but is in some degree regulated on principle; such little inoffensive partialities, are systematically constituted, the out works of the Religion and political consequence of the Canadians: those must stand firm there, who mean that the citadel shall not be approached.

It is certain there is in this Province a few individuals, actuated by different motives, who unite their endeavors to form the Canadian people, properly so called into a body politic: to condense it, to a vast, homogenous, impenetrable, volume, that time, will rather tend to strengthen than impair. They seem already to have organized their plan extensively, and minutely, in the false hope of rendering it imperishable. Some of the means adopted, are perhaps obvious. It would be invidious to allude to them: but the motives are strongly manifest. They may be classed as follows. 1stly. An apprehension that a progressive assimilation with the English, may finally extend to matters of Religion. 2dly. That as a firmly united body, acting on uniform sentiments, and simultaneously, full respect from the Government, and British people will be better secured, and perpetuated. 3dly. That on the occurrence of any little misunderstanding, an united body could act with more effect. 4thly. That it will be a convenient instrument, for the petty demagogue, to

win his way to popularity and power, and furnish him with a knocker to tap at the government door. And lastly, as an obligation of reverence to their ancestors. These motives chiefly originate in distrust, and, this, in ignorance.

The Canadians are not only a respectable, but in many points of view, an interesting people. Their natural propensities are honorable: their first inclination is to good faith. They are frank and loyal. They have in some degree, "*that proud submission, that dignified obedience, that subordination of the soul, which kept alive even in servitude itself the spirit of an exalted freedom.*"§ But they are ignorant; exquisitely susceptible; and form a rich soil for our half fledged political quacks.

Their attempt will be vain; their body politick will dissolve and disappear in the purity and brightness of the british character. The prejudices and useless peculiarities of the Canadians, will melt away like a vapour, in a summer's dawn. Yet this will not be the result of open compulsion, or secret delusion, or individual effort: it will be the product of an unavoidable chemical process: the gross, inert, opaque, materials, which encumber the Canadian will be precipitated in the effervescence of a British menstruum. No rhetoric, no regrets, no artificial dykes, nor a Draco himself, enthroned in steel, will oppose an effectual resistance.

And what is there in the productive habits of the Canadians (for it is not intended ever to allude to their religion,) that can justify the desire to perpetuate them?

The population of this Province forms a small compact body inert in its nature, without one principle of percussion; and exhibiting its infant face, surcharged with all the indications of old age and decay. During a lapse of two centuries, little more than the borders of the St. Lawrence have been put under cultivation; in a few places only, have settlements slumbered forth, on the minor

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§ Burke on the French Revolution speaking of departed France.

streams, with manifest reluctance and regret. Frequently a family groups together, until the original farm is divided into ribbons of land, and one extremity grows to a village. When necessity forces a younger branch, to form a new establishment, he does not pierce the recesses of the forest, in quest of a spot, equally fortunate in its soil and position: he makes no enquiries that may bring within his reach, a choice of objects: he will fix his eye on the steeple of his paternal church, and mark and adopt the peice of land, that may be at the least possible distance from that second centre of gravity; it is no matter, whether his lot falls on marsh, rock, or sand; it is immaterial how inferior in every desirable point, to a tract a few furlongs more remote. Thus have our Canadian settlements, insensibly gnawed out a few niches in the primitive woods of this country; and thus by a system of close adhesion, have the limits of cultivation been kept contracted, and its modes, in many points defective, perpetuated.

And is it then surprising, when nature seems in vain, to have unfolded to our view, one of her grandest panorama's; combining every soil, rich by centuries of repose; divided, yet bound together by the deepest furrows of the flood; and bearing on its surface, forests that would seem to fret the clouds as they pass; is it surprizing that a more active population, that the prying intrepid American, should appropriate what we refuse? Can we, immovable, and inadveturous, lament with manliness; that while we sleep on the bright lap of our country, her bosom should be rifled of every fair jewel by a foreign intruder? The fault is in us. Had our population instead of withering on the cradle in which it was rocked, boldly diverged with every point of the compass, and like the dreaded American, occupied the luxuriant intervals; we should have covered the whole country by a real possession. The settlements would indeed, have been more attenuated, but they would have been also infinitely

more advanced, more prosperous, and their inhabitants most assuredly less ignorant.

The morals of a part of the Americans, who have come into the province, perhaps would not bear the close eye of a censor ; but as productive instruments they are sunshine, and soft showers, in a new country. Forests sink before them like a wave under the prow of a scudding Ship. In one summer, a family will uncover from 30 to 60 acres of ground ; and bring it to full cultivation, in three ; such a product requires from us, the entire consumption of as many generations. While we trace a road they will carve a canal ; where we erect one bridge they will raise 20. While one of our establishments attains the elevation of a dram shop, they will have built and embellished a town. In short, while they gratefully, turn to the utmost use, the generous bounties of their Creator ; while, at the cost of unceasing labour, the proclaimed penalty of our sins, they seek amidst peril and difficulty, under the naked dome of heaven, for all the blandishments of life ; we elude the obligatory penance, and like the mean Diogenes, take shelter under a tub.\*

The objection so vehemently made, to the political notions of the American emigrant, would be found erroneous on strict enquiry. If he were attached to them, he would not long endure the adverse reception he receives in this province, he would seek room in some of the vast regions, still unlocated in his own country. He comes here, soured and disgusted by local bickerings ; perhaps he is eluding the proscriptions of a preponderating party. Scarce has he set his foot upon our territory, when he finds that real, modestly attired liberty, which he has seen perishing under the assaults of all the black passions

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\*Some years past, an attempt was made to settle with Canadians the Seigniori of Argenteuil situated on the Ottawa River. The design was miscalculated and turued out desperate, Immediately afterwards an attempt was made to establish the same Seigniori with Americans. The scene shifted in a summer : Numerous lots of land were uncovered, roads etched out, mills erected, ar among others one for the manufacture of paper, and the village, of St. Andrew projected and occupied. These people may be truly called scene shifters on the wild Theatre of Nature.

in the country he has left. He finds himself disentangled from that double twilled web of taxes, which is fast enveloping his countrymen. He finds neither *county*, *state* or *national* imposts are required or levied: he perceives his cattle may browse, unvisited and unappraised annually, by a band of prowling excisemen; and his farm exempted from a perpetually recurring pecuniary burthen. He involuntarily rejoices, and blesses that paternal government which can rule amidst so many immunities!\*

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\* Although it is not intended to follow the pamphlet in the sinuous course of its digressions allusion is made to a topic which necessarily arrests the attention. The author with a singular degree of misconception, expresses surprize at the opinion very correctly held, that the civil laws of England are *exclusively* in force on all those portions of the Province of Lower-Canada, that have been granted since the conquest. This surprize, must be, either, affected; must proceed from a judgment inverted by a dread of the American settlers, who are the only persons interested in the maintenance of that opinion; or proves that too little science produces nearly the same effect that too much does, that is a propensity to doubt the most self evident propositions. By the Royal Proclamation issued in 1763, the civil as well as criminal laws of England are ordered to be observed in all the then new conquests, comprising all Canada. The letter of the Proclamation is as follows, to wit:

“ And in the mean time, and until such assemblies can be called as aforesaid, all persons inhabiting in, or resorting to our said colonies may confide in our royal protection for the enjoyment of the benefits of the Laws of our Realm of England; for which purpose, we have given power under our Great Seal to the Governors of our said colonies respectively, to erect with the advice of our said Councils respectively, courts of Judicature and public justice within our said colonies, for the hearing and determining all causes, as well criminal as *civil*, according to Law and Equity, and, as near as may be, agreeable to the Laws of England, with liberty to all persons, who may think themselves aggrieved by the sentence of such courts, in all civil cases, to appeal, under the usual limitations and restrictions, to us, in our Privy Council.”

In 1774, the Statute called the Quebec Bill was passed, one of whose chief objects was to relieve the Canadians, of the inconveniences occasioned by the change of their laws. The letter of the enactment in their favor, is as follows, to wit:

“ Sec. VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all his Majesty's Canadian subjects within the province of Quebec, the religious Orders and Communities only excepted, may also hold and enjoy their property and possessions, together with all customs and usages relative thereto, and all other their civil rights in as large, ample, and beneficial manner, as if the said proclamation, commissions, ordinances, and other acts and instruments, had not been made, and as may consist with their allegiance to his Majesty, and subjection to the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain; and that in all matters of controversy, relative to property and civil rights, resort shall be had to the Laws of Canada, as the rule for the decision of the same; and all causes that shall hereafter be instituted in any of the Courts of Justice, to be appointed within and for the said province by his Majesty, his heirs and successors, shall with respect to such property and rights, be determined agreea-



Perpetual industry purifies the morals. Perpetual industry, leads to individual independence; and this confers peace and dignity on the mind. The little moral obliquities some of our American settlers may have acquired in early life, will be cast off, amidst those industrious habits, which characterize them: they will love the country in which they prosper: their political sentiments liberated from the intemperate action of endless elections, and already essentially british, will become so entirely. A spirit of national attachment to Great Britain is still manifest, particularly among those States, from whence issues the emigration to this Province. The people of New-England are even vain of their descent. They will trace with pride, through a long and crooked genealogy, an affinity, no matter how divergent, with british blood. "The King" alluding emphatically to our Sovereign, is a toast, perhaps more frequently given, in the single town of Boston, than in both the Canada's. They feel themselves still of the same family, and would be far from unwilling

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" bly to the said laws and customs of Canada, until they shall be varied or altered by any ordinances that shall, from time to time, be passed in the said province by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in Chief, for the time being, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of the same, to be appointed in manner herein aftermentioned."

But the next immediately succeeding clause is as follows, to wit:

" Sec. IX. Provided always, that nothing in this act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to any lands that have been granted by his Majesty, or shall hereafter be granted by his Majesty, his heirs and successors, to be holden in free and common socage."

Nothing can be more distinct than the result of this statement. 1<sup>o</sup>. In 1763 the civil laws of England prevail universally. 2<sup>o</sup>. In 1774 an exception is created in favor of the Canadians from a motive that refers to them alone, and the recital of this motive, would almost sufficiently restrict the exception to that class of His Majesty's subjects, exclusively; and thereby the general rule would seem confirmed, relatively to the other denomination of subjects. 3<sup>o</sup>. But to avoid the possibility of doubt, the last recited clause is introduced. This imposes a positive, clearly defined limit on the exception in favor of the Canadians which it is utterly impossible to mistake. The comprehensive terms of the proviso, and its immediate connection and reference to the first described clause in favor of the Canadians, manifests with the utmost precision, the design of the British Parliament; and forms a sufficient enactment to govern our Courts of Justice, independent of the Proclamation of 1763. It is time the curious doubts on this very important subject were removed by the Courts, that much needless uncertainty and confusion may be avoided.

to quarter in their armorial bearings a little slice of the lion and the unicorn.†

But our author has forgotten that the original introduction of American settlers was intended to be restricted to those distinguished by the name of loyalists : to those who, from devotion to the cause of their Sovereign or in obedience to principle, left the early scenes of their boyhood, their home, their altars, and their country ; to those who were brought to the touchstone and found not wanting. These men are genuine ; they carry the tower mark ; and if a little alloy has crept in with them, they will form a sufficient antidote.

However certain it is that neither force, deception, or persuasion, will ever be employed to *anglify* the Canadians, in so far as relates to their language, habits and customs ; (for their religion is totally out of the question) it is superlatively absurd to deny, that very beneficial consequences, would result from such an assimilation ; and indeed most ridiculous, to pretend that the actual dissimilarity, prevailing in this country, constitutes the best defence of a British Province ! Among men, resemblance is union. A person will always prefer another, of his own opinions, habits, language, colour or even name, to such as may differ in these points of relation. Similar sentiments and feelings, create a common sympathy among the persons possessing them ; and sympathy is the basis of all affections. Two blacks, meeting in one of the white cities of Europe, approach each other, by a physical, as much as a moral affinity almost irresistible. Should one of our Hurons, after loitering some weeks on the banks of the Nile, meet with another of his tribe, who could describe the movements of his soul ? what painter could sketch the gestures of joy that would mark the scene ? When a Macdonald or a Fraser meets ano-

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† The pretended enmity of the Americans to the English is in a great degree artificial. In order to counteract the natural bias the former have to the latter, from a fear it might finally affect their national independence, the leaders of a party fill their Newspapers and other prints with arguments and ribaldry, at which they secretly laugh and sneer.

ther of the same *name*, they are drawn together by the *sound*; and however feeble this affinity, it will be seen to take effect, in a room full of people, all other considerations being equal. We would surely, prefer a picture that should express a perfect resemblance of ourselves, to one exhibiting a Khan of Tartary, or a Chinese Mandarin: so we involuntarily associate with those, in whom, from a similitude of feeling and manner, we seem to discover our own image. These tendencies, originate in the universal and indestructible principle of self-love. Whatever qualities we find elsewhere, resembling our own, we claim a connection to; we justify, admire, and seem to be approving merely our individual self. Since all the more manly, austere feelings, of our nature are engaged in political associations and differences; affinities from such causes, become so much the stronger. And as every point of resemblance among the individuals who compose a State is a bond of union, the greatest uniformity, will necessarily produce the greatest degree of national strength.

On the contrary every point of difference, is also one of repulsion: and this issues from the same principle of self love; for we involuntarily turn with indifference and sometimes disgust, from qualities and characteristics in others, which instead of concurring, are brought in comparison or competition, with our own.

So long as the Canadians continue to form a contrast, with their English fellow subjects, in so many particulars, they will continue to feel as strangers. They may respect, they may esteem, but it is difficult to suppose, they can possess that unison of sentiment, which constitutes equally the charm and the strength of society. They who believe the reverse must deal in levities. It might as well be expected a person would encrease the harmony of his family, by educating part of his children in Turkey, and part in England. It might as well be expected a stage coach would be better drawn by a combination of horses and hyænas, than by a uniform team of the former alone.

In the same spirit, we ought to wonder, that the building of the tower of Babel did not proceed with greater success after, than before the confusion of tongues.

This Province is destined to receive a large british population. English, Irish, Scotch particularly from the Highlands, and American Loyalists, are emigrating to our rising country. They find it a virgin waste, untouched by human industry or art, except the narrow selvage we occupy. Under the exercise of superior labour, skill and enterprize, their means and numbers will take a rapid growth. They will form a widely encreasing body, bearing all the national traits of Great Britain, and deriving from the mother country, qualities to which, a constant intercourse with her will give depth, vigor and permanency. The impossibility of preserving a state of Society perfectly homogeneous in this Province, appears absolute. Among the Canadians another people are forming, who have all the characteristics of the parent state. Would it be more expedient, that they should shed their national marks and adopt those of the Canadians? or would it be more reasonable and politic, in these, to recede with less reluctance from those useless peculiarities which, without conferring any advantage, constitute so many points of repulsion? The question conveys its own answer. The british Oak has shot across the ocean his mighty root: he has broken through every stratum of the earth: and it would be more wise in the gentle Lilac here, to intermix her fibres in friendly confidence, than to resist in vain the herculean ramification.

Happy respectable Canadians, listen with caution, to perhaps your well meaning soothsayers: survey for yourselves the fair eminence on which you repose. The first Nation of our Globe: first in her attainments of civil and political liberty; first in moral sentiment and the unalterable exercise of justice, calls you to the proud condition of british subjects. She invokes the developement of your genius, your talents and industry; and has opened all the avenues to individual prosperity. Let fifty years of good

faith, beneficence and paternal care, chase from your mind the last traces of distrust. Calculate your own experience; sum up the acts, qualities, and propensities of the British Government and people, and frankly say, whether the result ought not to procure for them, your respect, esteem and reliance? Then, united and ennobled by our distinguished political fate, let us promote without guile the peace and welfare of our portion of the Empire: let us, freely mix and incorporate with a Nation which has conferred on us her good fortune, and her lustre; a nation on whose domains the Sun never ceases to shine, and whose glory will increase with the bounds of memory.

FINIS.



